

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 783

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USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7717

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, GR, US

SUBJECT: NBC SPECIAL ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

REF: SECDEF 2591DTG 062308Z

1. REFTEL CONCERNING THE NBC REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR ASSISTANCE IN FILMING U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN GREECE, WHICH WAS RECEIVED TODAY (OCTOBER 7), WAS THE FIRST WORD WE HAD CONCERNING THIS PROJECT. NBC HAS NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US OR OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. MISSION HERE AS OF YET ABOUT THIS MATTER.

2. WE HAVE TALKED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO CONFIRM WHAT INFORMATION THE GOG HAD ABOUT THE PROJECT. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS HAD REPORTED THAT HE HAD SEEN A REPRESENTATIVE OF NBC CONCERNING THIS MATTER ON THE INTRODUCTION OF UNDER SECRETARY SISCO. THE UNDER SECRETARY HAD POINTED OUT TO HIM, ACCORDING TO ALEXANDRAKIS' REPORT TO THE MFA, THAT THIS DOCUMENTARY ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY WOULD INCLUDE A LOOK AT U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS AND ALSO U.S. TURKISH RELATIONS. MOREOVER, SINCE THE GOT HAD

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AGREED TO ASSIST AND COOPERATE IN THE FILMING IN TURKEY,

SISCO ADVISED ALEXANDRAKIS THAT THE GOG MIGHT FIND IT IN ITS INTEREST TO ASSIST NBC AND INSURE THAT THE GREEK SIDE WAS ALSO SHOWN.

3. THE MFA HAS ADVISED ALEXANDRAKIS TO INFORM NBC OF THE GOG'S CONCURRENCE AND THAT IT AGREES TO THE FILMING OF U.S. BASES IN GREECE, PROVIDING THE USG HAS NO OBJECTION. MOREOVER, UNDER SECRETARY FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION LAMBRIAS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR AN ON-CAMERA INTERVIEW TO PRESENT THE GREEK POINT OF VIEW.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN POSE ANY OBJECTION TO THE NBC REQUEST TO FILM U.S. FACILITIES AT SOUDA BAY, IRAKLION AND HELLENIKON (PARA 2 OF REFTEL). AND IN ANY CASE, WE DO NOT SEE WHY WE SHOULD NOT AGREE TO ASSIST NBC IN THIS PROJECT. SOUDA BAY AND HELLENIKON, OF COURSE, POSE NO DIFFICULTY FROM THE U.. POINT OF VIEW, ALTHOUGH THE GOG MIGHT NOT WISH ANY FILMING TO TAKE PLACE AT SOUDA AB, AN HAF OPERATIONAL BASE. IRAKLION DOES PRESENT SOME SPECIAL PROBLEMS BUT WE BELIEVE THEY ARE MANAGEABLE.

5. UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES OBJECTION, THEREFORE, WHEN APPROACHED BY NBC, WE PLAN TO INDICATE OUR READINESS TO ASSIST THEM IN FILMING U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN GREECE. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD MAKE CAREFUL ARRANGEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH ANY ON-CAMERA INTERVIEWS. IN THIS RESPECT, WE PLAN TO ASK NBC TO GIVE US IN ADVANCE AN INDICATION OF THE TYPE OF QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE POSED IN ANY ON-CAMERA INTERVIEWS ON OUR BASES. WE WILL ALSO WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE INTERVIEWS ARE NOT CONDUCTED ON A RANDOM "MAN-ON-THE-STREET" BASIS BUT THAT THEY ARE WITH THE SENIOR OFFICER ON THE BASE OR HIS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE, SUCH AS THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, WHO WILL CONFINE COMMENTS TO UNCLASSIFIED BRIEFING ON U.S. FACILITIES.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE OR ANY ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE IT MAY WISH TO SEND US.
KUBISCH

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